



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN 

FOURTH OF JULY 2008 ACTIVITY REPORT

This report includes a preliminary summary of fireworks-related emergency incidents, property loss, and number of injuries that occurred on July 4, 2008. Also included is a summary of community outreach to mitigate the anticipated increase in emergency activity during the Fourth of July 2008 holiday.

FIREWORKS-RELATED EMERGENCY ACTIVITY REPORT

The following information indicates the fireworks-related activities that took place during the 24-hour period from 7 a.m. on July 4, to 7 a.m. on July 5, 2008:

Number Of Incidents	2007	2008
Structure Fires	2	0
Miscellaneous Fires	6	12
Grass/Brush Fires	14	8
Total	22	21

Dollar/Acreage Loss/Injuries	2007	2008
Structures/Contents	\$555,000	\$0
Miscellaneous Property	\$2,050	\$100
Grass/Brush	8.65 Acres	2.9 Acres
Injuries	0	4
Total	\$557,050	\$100

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS
ARTESIA
AZUSA
BALDWIN PARK
BELL
BELL GARDENS
BELLFLOWER
BRADBURY

CALABASAS
CARSON
CERRITOS
CLAREMONT
COMMERCE
COVINA
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR
DUARTE
EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLENDALE
HAWAIIAN GARDENS
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS
HUNTINGTON PARK
INDUSTRY
INGLEWOOD
IRWINDALE
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA
LA PUENTE
LAKEWOOD
LANCASTER
LAWNDALE
LOMITA
LYNWOOD

MALIBU
MAYWOOD
NORWALK
PALMDALE
PALOS VERDES ESTATES
PARAMOUNT
PICO RIVERA

POMONA
RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ROLLING HILLS
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
ROSEMEAD
SAN DIMAS
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL
SOUTH EL MONTE
SOUTH GATE
TEMPLE CITY
WALNUT
WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

The Department's Fire Command and Control Facility received 2,173 calls of which 1,157 required resources to be dispatched. The other calls were duplicate calls, questions regarding illegal fireworks, and questions regarding cities allowing safe and sane fireworks. This is an increase of 14% as compared to last year's total phone calls of 1,908 of which 989 were dispatched resources.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Special emphasis was placed on warning the public of the dangers associated with the use of fireworks. The public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks display instead of using private home-use fireworks. The following is a list of the campaign highlights for 2008:

- Conducted the 17th Annual "Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest" with the theme of *"Attend a Professional Fireworks Display."* All elementary schools within the County of Los Angeles were invited to participate and over 600 posters were submitted.
- A press conference was held on June 25, 2008 to announce the winners of the "Junior Fire Chief for a Day Poster Contest" and to award prizes. Representatives from our Department, the Los Angeles Fire Department, and the Grossman Burn Center, as well as the Children's Burn Foundation, were on hand to discuss the dangers of legal and illegal dangerous fireworks and the public was encouraged to attend a professional fireworks show.
- An additional press conference was conducted by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich on July 1, 2008 at Fire Station 124 in Stevenson Ranch (Santa Clarita) to announce the dangers of fireworks and fire related injuries.
- Conducted numerous interviews with local and national newspapers, radio, and television stations on the potential dangers of fireworks.
- The Professional Fireworks Show Hotline, 888-654-FIRE, was placed in operation to provide information in both English and Spanish on the locations of professional fireworks shows.
- Public Affairs posted public safety information and videos on the website at www.fire.lacounty.gov, to emphasize the cities that allowed "Safe and Sane" fireworks as well as the cities not permitting legal or illegal fireworks. The website included a list of all the professional fireworks shows in Los Angeles County and advised that fireworks were not permitted in the unincorporated County areas. We also promoted the www.safejuly4th.org site in this section.
- Introduced monthly safety videos on the Department's website, with this month's "Fourth of July" safety video included.

- Provided fireworks safety information to all fire stations for distribution to the public.
- Approved the permits and supervised 48 public fireworks displays with a fire safety officer at each site (July 3-5).
- Staffed the Communications Center with Fire Prevention personnel to support the fireworks enforcement and confiscation activity of fire units and police agencies.
- Provided one on call battalion chief to handle problems related to the fireworks public displays and confiscations of illegal fireworks.

CONCLUSION

The number of structure fires, grass fires, and miscellaneous fires caused by illegal or safe and sane fireworks decreased by one from the previous year. The dollar loss was down considerably from \$557,050 in 2007 to a \$100 loss in 2008. There were four reported injuries caused by illegal or safe and sane fireworks this year. The Department will be compiling a more comprehensive report that covers a 30-day reporting period of June 17 to July 16, 2008. This 30-day report is a more accurate reflection of actual trends in fireworks-related incidents than the 24-hour figures contained in this report. The 30-day report is expected to be completed in early August.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

PMF:dt

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